



Stow TV Update

October 22, 2004

League of Women Voters Candidates' Night On Stow TV Cable Channel 9 Program runs 1 1/2 hour

Sat 10/23 1 pm	Thu 10/28 6:30 pm
Sun 10/24 1 pm	Fri 10/29 9 pm
Mon 10/25 9 pm	Sat 10/30 1 pm
Tue 10/26 6:30 pm	Sun 10/31 1 pm
Wed 10/27 1 pm	Mon 11/1 9 pm

This recording is aired as part of a Stow TV program to test audio and video cablecast quality.
Video recording by Lew Halprin.



Photograph by John Sangermano
Candidates' Night. From left, Candidates for State Senate are Rod Jane' and Pamela Resor. Candidates for State Representative are Neal Heeren and Patricia Walrath. Moderator is Jean Foley.

Meeting Room Testing

Beta Test Report

From June through September, PEG conducted a Beta Test to test equipment that would enable recording and cablecasting of selected town committee meetings. Participating in this test were the PEG Committee, the Cable Committee, and a local company. The test incurred no costs or obligations to the town. Goals of the test were to develop an inexpensive system that was minimally disruptive to the meetings and required minimal operator time and skills.

Phase 3 of the Beta Test has concluded and the cameras have been removed from Warren Room. As part of the test, Stow TV cablecast two of the recorded meetings during the week of October 4. The test and cablecast showed some problems with audio and video quality due to a number of factors. Feedback from viewers has indicated that more work is needed to improve the audio and video quality of the recordings and cablecasts.

Next Steps

Over the next few weeks the PEG and Cable Committees will evaluate other equipment and configurations. Different cameras, microphones, and alternative cabling systems will be tested. During this time, equipment may be temporarily set up in the Warren room for testing. Testing equipment will be removed at the end of a day and will not be in the room at meeting times. There are no plans to record or cablecast any meetings during this period. The only exception is that the PEG and Cable committees may volunteer to be recorded as part of the test.

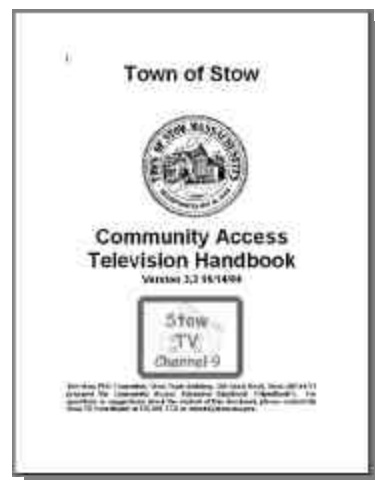
Warren Room Lights

One row of ceiling lights in the Warren Room has been moved with the approval of the Town Manager and Building Inspector. This will reduce glare that bounced off the walls and distorted the view of committee members in the recordings. This lighting change will benefit regardless of what recording system is eventually selected.

Handbook Update

The *Stow Community Access Television Handbook* defines the policies and procedures for use of Stow TV facilities and services. The PEG Committee recently made public announcements requesting public input to the *Handbook*.

The Committee has now completed reviewing input from multiple sources. The *Handbook* will next be reviewed by the Selectmen. With their approval, the most recent version will be published. The *Handbook* is available at Town Building, Randall Library, and on the web at www.stow-ma.gov in the "Town Documents" section.



Video and Audio Improvements Town Hall and Hale Auditorium

A PEG goal is to make it easy to create recordings of events at Town Hall and Hale Auditorium. PEG and the Cable committee will initially focus on Town Hall, with plans that a similar solution will also work for Hale.

Some of the cameras and related equipment under test for use in Warren Room will also be tested for use in Town Hall. For example, we plan to try out a fixed camera with pan, tilt and zoom for possible use in both locations. The camera would be mounted in Town Hall balcony. Testing equipment will only be placed temporarily at this time. Any recording of Town Hall events will be only at the request of the event manager.

The best way to record sound in Town Hall is to connect directly to the Public Address system which is already installed. The goal is to have hidden audio wires running from the PA system to the center of the balcony. These wires could easily be plugged into a camcorder. Although much of this configuration is in place and has been used, there are technical issues that need addressing for proper sound quality. The PEG and Cable Committees will make these improvements with the help of volunteers who have professional expertise.

Do you have experience
with video production or
video equipment?

Would you like to help re-
cord meetings and events?

Stow TV needs volunteers.
Give us a call!

Announce your event on
Stow TV.

Just fill out a form by
Town mailboxes.
We'll make it look
eye-catching!

Stow TV and the PEG Committee

The Stow TV station and office is located
on the 3rd floor of Town building.

380 Great Road
Stow MA 01775
Email: stowtv@stow-ma.gov
Phone: 978-897-7732
Fax: 978-897-4553

Stow TV Coordinator: Anne VanTine

The Public, Education, and Government
(PEG) Committee oversees the operation
and policies of Stow TV.

PEG Committee Members

Shirley A. Burchfield, chairman
Leonard H. Golder
Edward E. Newman
James L. Parr
Edward R. (Ross) Perry Jr.